



PATENT
Attorney Docket N° P1756US00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of : Davis, David R., et al.
Serial N° : 10/040,340
Filed : November 1, 2001
Group Art Unit : 2841
Examiner : Thanh S. Phan
For : TOOL-LESS ACCESS COVER AND EMI TIGHT ACCESS
DOOR

MS Appeal Brief - Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TRANSMITTAL OF APPEAL BRIEF

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ReNea D. Berggren

DATED: December 1, 2003

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DATED: December 1, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,
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PATENT

Attorney Docket No. P1756US00

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In Re Application Of : DAVIS, DAVID R., et al.
Serial No. : 10/040,340
Filed : November 1, 2001
Art Unit : 2841
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Title: *TOOL-LESS ACCESS COVER AND EMI TIGHT ACCESS DOOR*

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APPELLANT'S BRIEF ON APPEAL

This is an appeal from the Final Office Action dated September 24, 2003, finally rejecting claims 7-43 and 45-52.

(1) REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is Gateway, Inc.

(2) RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Appellant is not aware of any related appeals or interferences.

(3) STATUS OF CLAIMS

The status of the claims is as follows:

Claims withdrawn: 1-6

Claims allowed: none

Claims objected to: 44

Claims rejected: Claims 7-43 and 45-52

(4) STATUS OF AMENDMENTS AFTER FINAL

No amendment has been proffered since the mail date of the Final Office Action of September 24, 2003.

(5) SUMMARY OF INVENTION

The present invention relates to an information handling system case that has a chassis suitable for containing an electronic component, an access door removably mounted to the chassis, the access door suitable for permitting access to an electronic component contained in the computer chassis, and a release mechanism adjacent to the access door, wherein the release mechanism is manually operable by a single hand of a user to release the access door from the chassis, the access door separating from the chassis upon manipulation of the release mechanism by the user. The quick release mechanism is preferably a squeezable handle. EMI shielding is accomplished through EMI clips that form almost an entire continuous unbroken perimeter about an opening in the chassis.

Applicant's drawing figures 1, 3, 6, 7, and 10 illustrate aspects of the claimed invention. Figure 1 shows the access panel door 25 mounted to chassis (or case) 10. The access door has clips or hooks 70 that fit into openings 80. Figure 3 points out the squeezable handle 30 which allows singled handed opening and removal of the access door. Figures 6 and 7 show the operational aspects of the squeezable handle. Figure 10 shows an EMI clip 40.

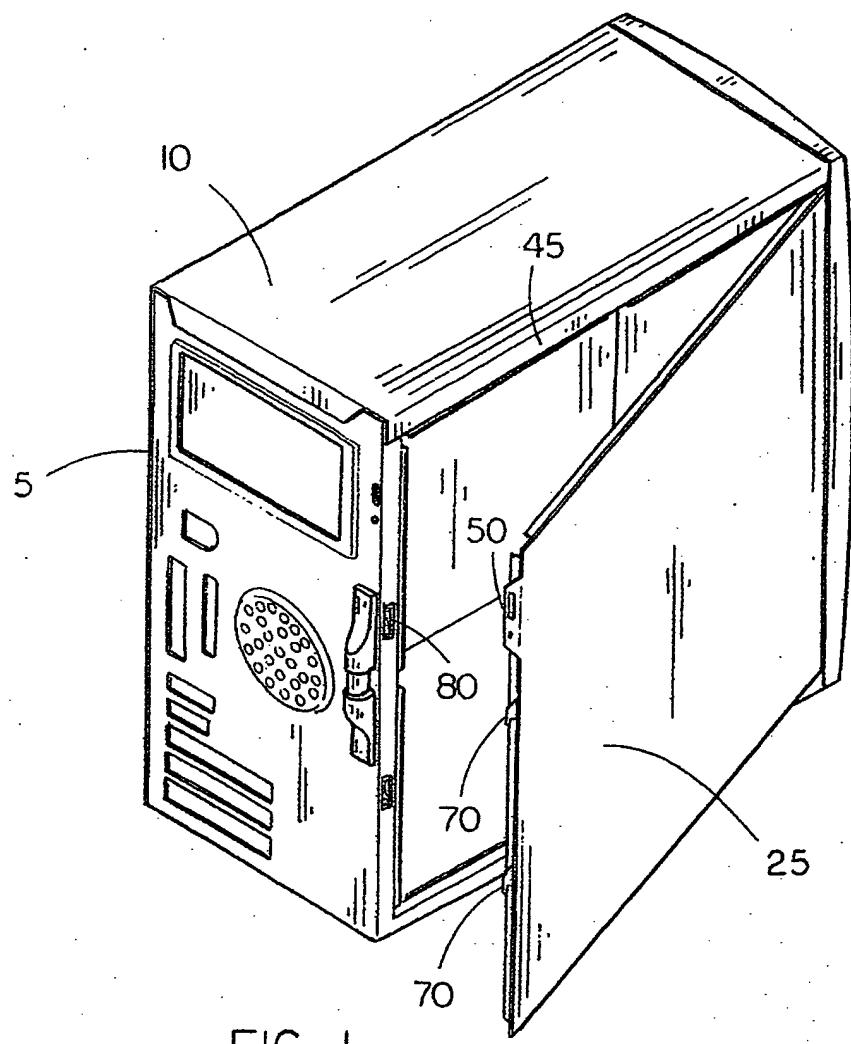


FIG. 1

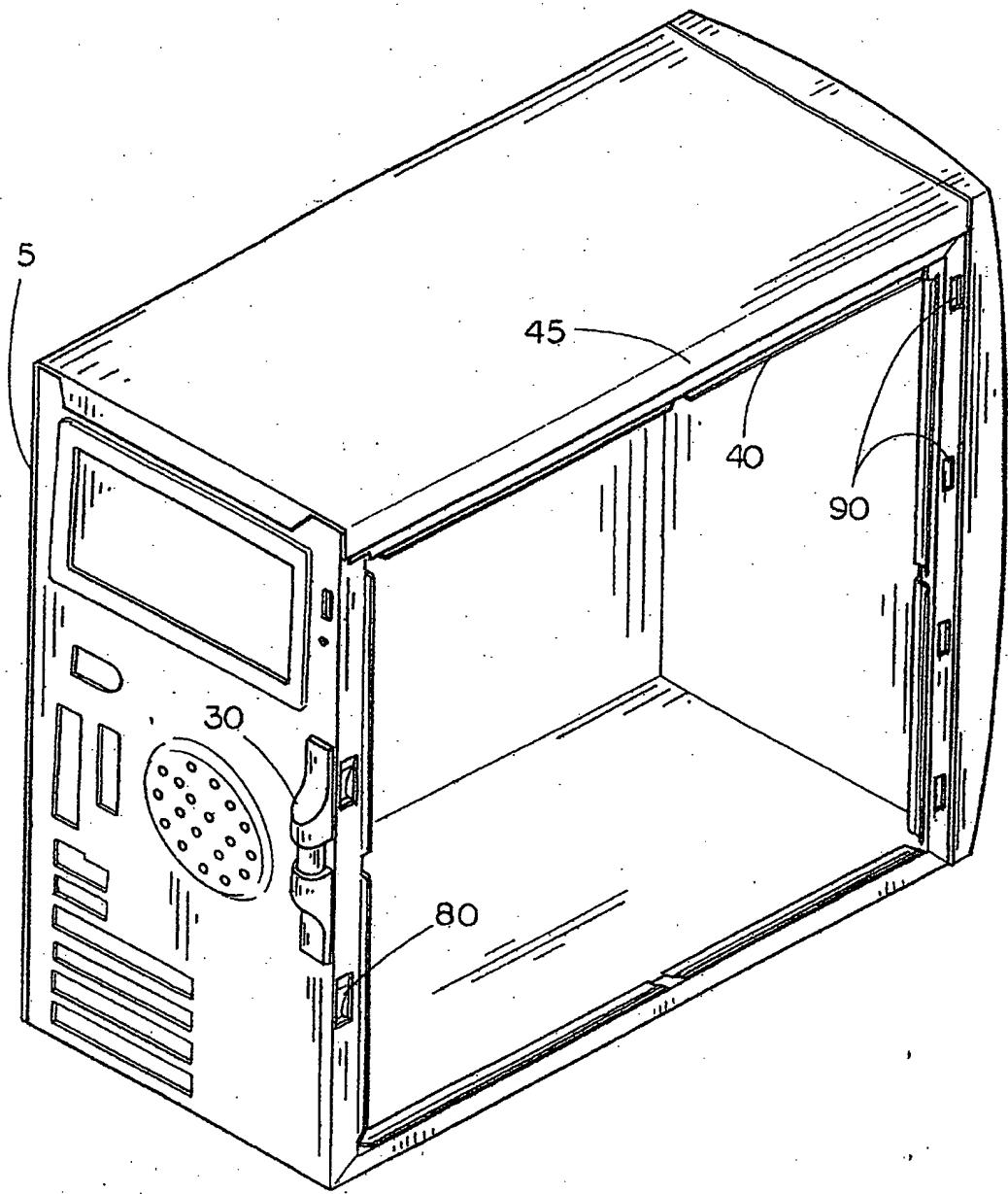


FIG. 3

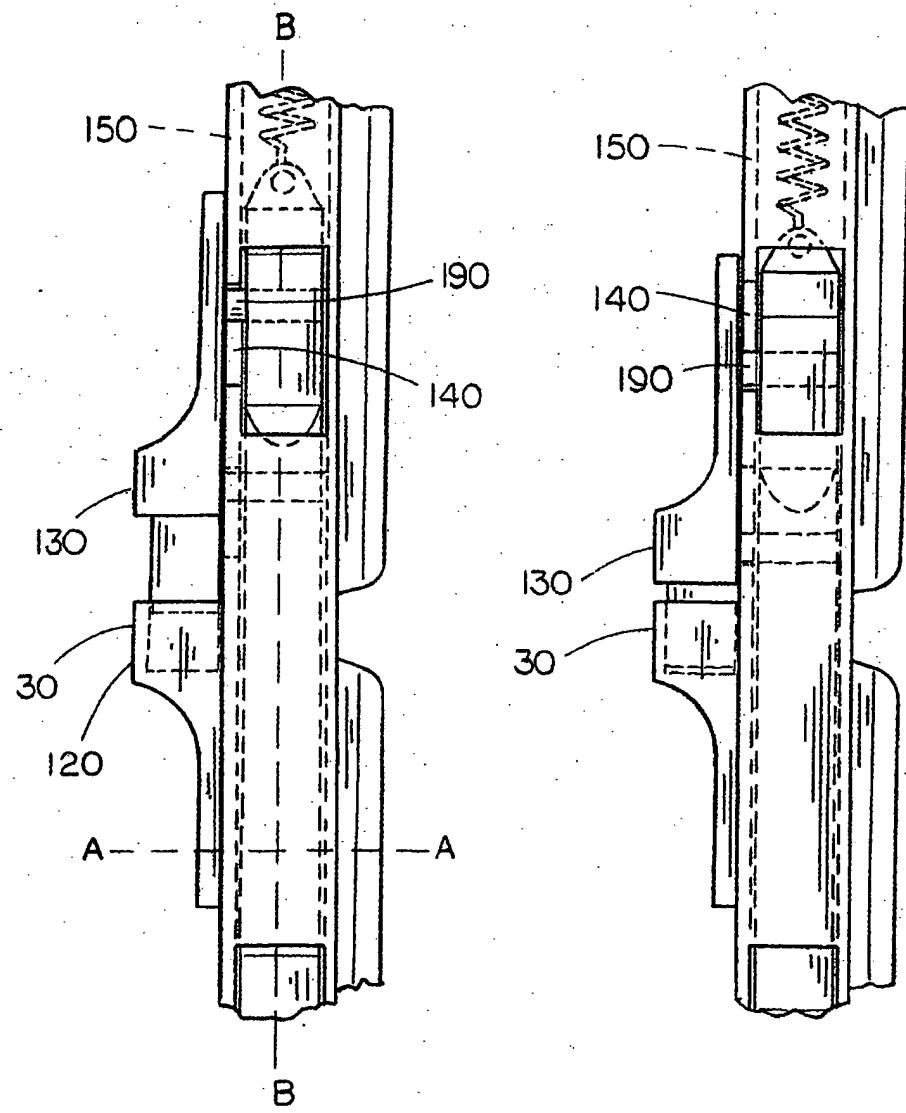


FIG. 6

FIG. 7

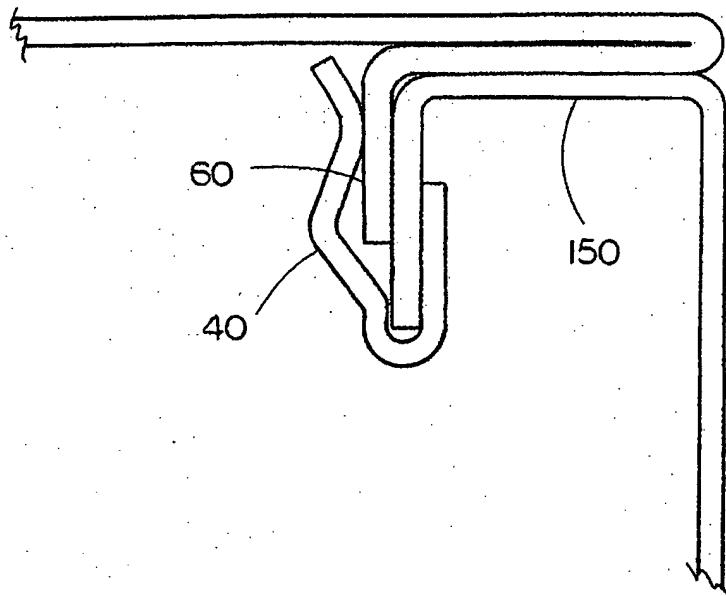


FIG. 10

(6) ISSUES

- I. Did the Patent Office properly reject Claims 15 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hobbs et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,877,938?
- II. Did the Patent Office properly reject Claims 7-13, 16-18, 20-26, 28-39, 47-50, and 52 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hobbs et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,877,938, in view of McMiller et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,194,653, and Anderson, U.S. Patent No. 5,681,066?
- III. Did the Patent Office properly reject Claims 14 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hobbs et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,877,938, in view of McMiller et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,194,653, and Anderson, U.S. Patent No. 5,681,066, and further in view of Casebolt, U.S. Patent No. 6,437,980?

IV. Did the Patent Office properly reject Claims 40-43 and 45-46 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hobbs et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,877,938, in view of McMiller et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,194,653, and Anderson, U.S. Patent No. 5,681,066, and further in view of Hulick et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,825,626?

V. Did the Patent Office properly reject Claim 51 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hobbs et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,877,938, in view of McMiller et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,194,653, and Anderson, U.S. Patent No. 5,681,066, as applied to Claim 7, and further in view of Baillie, U.S. Patent No. 4,195,867?

(7) GROUPING OF CLAIMS

For each ground of rejection that appellant contests herein which applies to more than one claim, such additional claims, to the extent separately identified and argued below, do not stand and fall together.

The Claims are at least as distinguishable as grouped below:

Group I: Claims 15 and 16 stand and fall together.

Group II: Claims 27-30, 34-36, and 47-50 stand and fall together.

Group III: Claim 7, 8, 37, and 52 stand and fall together.

Group IV: Claim 9 stands and falls alone.

Group V: Claims 10 and 11 stand and fall together

Group VI: Claims 12 and 13 stand and fall together.

Group VII: Claims 17, 18, and 42 stand and fall together.

Group VIII: Claims 31-33 stand and fall together.

Group IX: Claim 20 stands and falls alone.

Group X: Claims 21-23 stand and fall together.

Group XI: Claims 24-26, 45, and 46 stand and fall together.

Group XII: Claim 38 stands and falls alone.

Group XIII: Claim 39 stands and falls alone.

Group XIV: Claims 14 stands and falls alone.

Group XV: Claims 19 and 43 stand and fall together.

Group XVI: Claim 40 stands and falls alone.

Group XVII: Claim 41 stands and falls alone.

Group XVIII: Claim 51 stands and falls alone.

(8) ARGUMENT

ISSUE I

The issue is whether the Patent Office properly rejected Claims 15 and 27 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Hobbs et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,877,938.

A claim is anticipated by a reference if each and every element of the claim is taught by the reference or the element is inherent. MPEP § 2131.

GROUP I

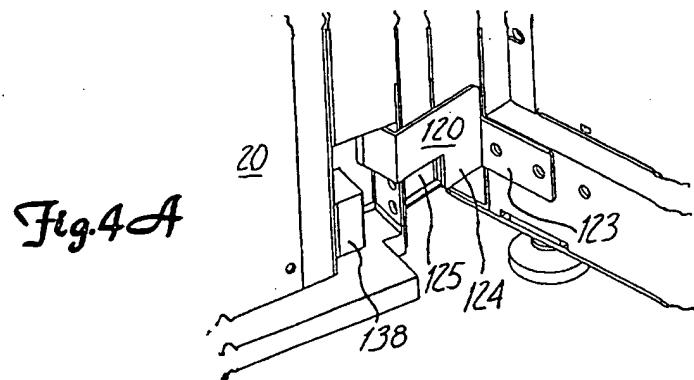
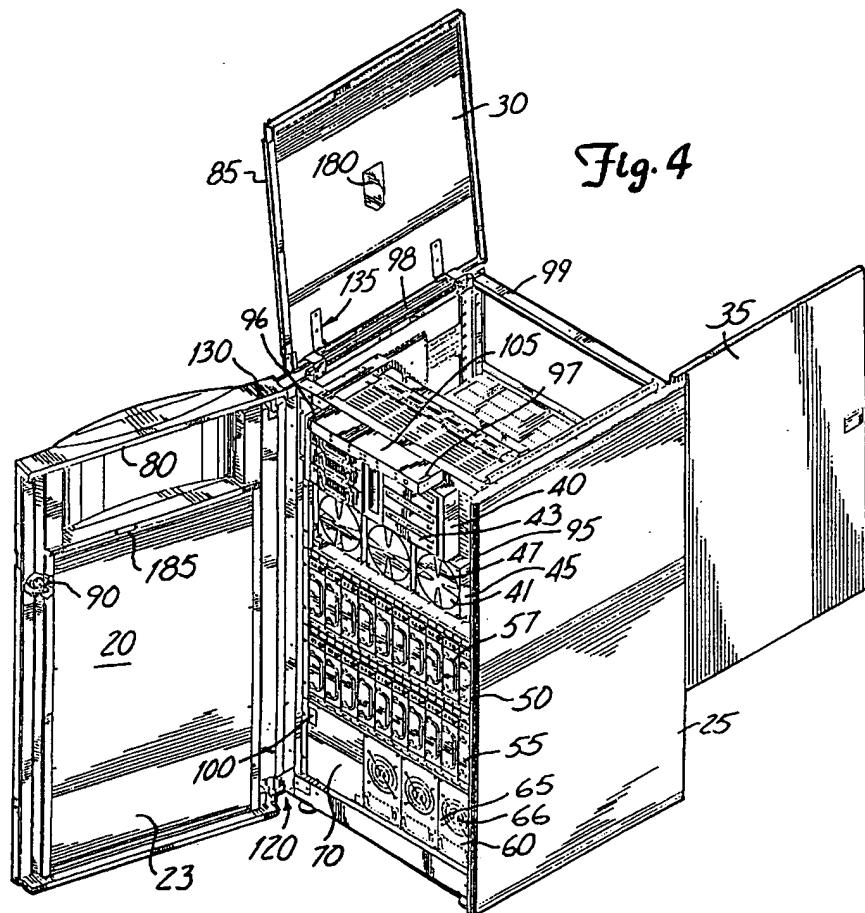
Claim 15 recites “an access door removably mounted to the chassis, the access door suitable for permitting access to an electronic component contained in the computer chassis; and a release mechanism adjacent to the access door, wherein the release mechanism is manually operable by a single hand of a user to release the access door from the chassis, the access door separating from the chassis upon manipulation of the release mechanism by the user.” Hobbs fails to teach a door that separates from a chassis upon manipulation of a release mechanism by a user. Instead, Hobbs teaches a hinged door. This is not the present invention. The Patent Office indicated that the access door is front door 20. Front door 20 is shown to be hinged by hinge plate 124 and hinge plate 123 (col. 10, line 39, to col. 11, line 4). Front door 20 in Hobbs is not disclosed as separating from the chassis upon manipulation of the release mechanism by the user. Hobbs does disclose peripheral access door 75 can be completely removable from the front door 20 (col. 6, lines 17-18), but does not disclose how this is done. Hobbs does

disclose a lock 90 (col. 5, lines 42-50; col. 8, lines 5-25). Although manipulating the lock will unlock or lock the front door 20, manipulating the lock is not disclosed in Hobbs as separating the access door from the chassis as recited by Claim 15. For example, manipulation of the lock 90 does not necessarily result in the separating of the access door from the chassis. In fact, a further motion of pulling on the door is necessary for separation. Thus, Hobbs does not anticipate Claim 15. (Figures 4 and 5 of Hobbs are provided below.) Claim 16 is allowable because it depends from Claim 15.

In the Final Office Action mailed September 24, 2003, the Patent Office asserted that the applicant argues “Hobbs et al. fails to disclose the door being removable from the chassis” (page 6, line 18). The Patent Office asserted that “Hobbs et al. teach the door being removable from the chassis [column 5, lines 52-58]” (page 7, lines 12-13). Applicant has been misquoted. Applicant noted “Hobbs fails to teach a door that separates from a chassis upon manipulation of a release mechanism by a user.” Hobbs discloses (column 5, lines 52-58) a rear door 35 “designed to swing between open and closed positions on external hinges 37 (FIG. 2), and also is designed for easy removal from housing 15.” Hobbs does not disclose a door separating from a chassis upon manipulation of a release mechanism by a user.

GROUP II

Claim 27 recites “means for removing the access panel door from the computer chassis using a single hand of a user.” Group II is patentably distinguishable from Group I because of this limitation. Hobbs does not disclose removing any door using a single hand of a user. (See above discussion for Claim 15.) Thus, Hobbs does not anticipate Claim 27. Claims 28-30 are allowable because they depend from Claim 27.



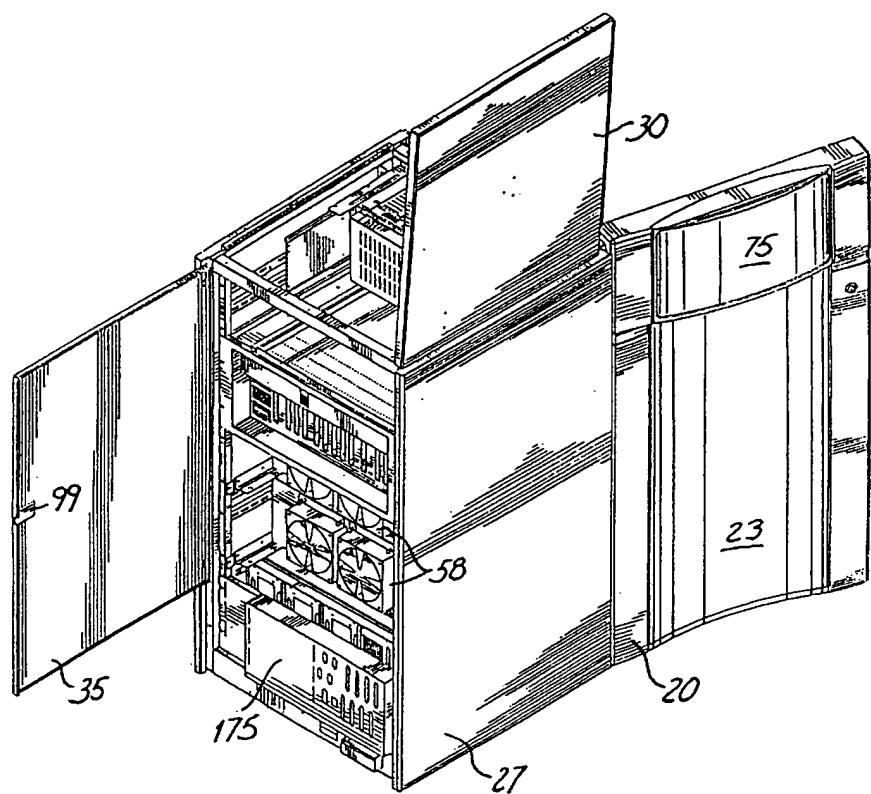


Fig. 5

ISSUE II

The issue is whether the Patent Office properly rejected Claims 7-13, 16-18, 20-26, and 28-36 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hobbs et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,877,938, in view of McMiller et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,194,653, and further in view of Anderson, U.S. Patent No. 5,681,066.

The Patent Office is kindly reminded that in order to establish *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on applicant's disclosure. MPEP § 2142.

GROUP III

Claim 7 recites a computer case that has an access panel door that fits a chassis opening in which the chassis has a handle with a stationary part and a movable part that are squeezed together. The chassis has EMI clips surrounding the opening. The EMI clips retentively receiving the flanges of the access panel door. One side of the access panel door has latches for engaging an engaging member of a locking mechanism in the computer chassis. A tab projects at the perimeter of the side of the access panel door that has latches. The tab has a perforation to provide for further securing the access panel door to the computer chassis.

Claim 7 recites "the chassis having a handle with a stationary part and a movable part in which the access panel door is opened when the stationary part and the movable part of the handle are squeezed together." Group III is patentably distinct from Groups I and II because of this limitation. The Patent Office asserted that Hobbs discloses "a

handle [figure 5] mounted on the access door” and asserted on page 8, line 7, of the Final Office Action, that Hobbs does not preclude the use of a handle to open/close the door. Hobbs does not disclose or suggest a squeezable handle in Figure 5. Even if Hobbs taught a handle mounted on the access door, this would not be a teaching for the claim because of the recitation “the chassis having a handle.” Hobbs does not express a need for a squeezable handle nor discloses any deficiency in the door opening techniques used. Hobbs shows the chassis (figure 9) as being constructed of rectangular lengths of metal. There is no place to put a squeezable handle on the chassis of Hobbs. Thus, Hobbs is not modifiable to have a handle and, so, is not modifiable by Anderson. The Patent Office has asserted Anderson discloses a handle member (figure 1) formed of a support portion 12 supporting squeezable members 14 thereon engaging latch members. Anderson actually discloses both members of the handle move when squeezed (col. 3, lines 42-44 and 50-53).

Furthermore, Claim 7 recites “a handle with a stationary part and a movable part in which the access panel door is opened when the stationary part and the movable part of the handle are squeezed together.” Group III is also patentably distinct from Groups I and II because of this limitation. Anderson fails to meet the claim limitation. Anderson furthermore is directed to long doors for transporting cargo (col. 1, lines 58-64) whereas Hobbs is directed to computer servers. Anderson is non-analogous art. Thus, Hobbs is not modifiable by Anderson.

Claim 7 also recites “each of the sides of the support body has only one flange.” Group III is also patentably distinct from Groups I and II because of this limitation. Hobbs does not disclose this limitation. None of the other cited reference discloses this limitation. Claim 7 recites “latches for engaging an engaging member of a locking mechanism in the computer chassis, the latches being located outside the area bound by the flanges.” Hobbs does not disclose this limitation. Hobbs discloses a singular key lock 90 (figure 4). None of the other cited references disclose this limitation.

Claim 7 recites “a tab projects at the perimeter of the side of the access panel door that has latches, the tab having at least one perforation to provide for further securing the access panel door to the computer chassis.” Group III is also patentably distinct from Groups I and II because of this limitation. Hobbs does not disclose a tab. Neither

McMiller nor Anderson makes up for the deficiencies of Hobbs. Because McMiller fails to teach a tab, McMiller does not teach using a thumbscrew in the manner of the claimed invention. Anderson does not correct the deficiency in Hobbs or McMiller. The Patent Office has used applicant's own disclosure (paragraph 0044) to provide a motivation for modifying Hobbs by McMiller and (paragraph 0009) to provide a motivation for modifying Hobbs by Anderson.

Therefore, Claim 7 is not made obvious by the combination of Hobbs, McMiller, and Anderson.

Claims 8-14, 37-39, 51, and 52 are allowable based on their dependence from Claim 7.

In the Final Office Action mailed September 24, 2003, the Patent Office asserted "In response to applicant's argument that Anderson is nonanalogous art, it has been held that a prior art reference must either be in the field of applicant's endeavor or, if not, then be reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the applicant was concerned, in order to be relied upon as a basis for rejection of the claimed invention." (page 7 lines 18-22). Anderson is not in the field of applicant's endeavor because Anderson is directed to cargo door and Applicant's invention recites access doors for a computer or information handling system case. Anderson is concerned with using different spring strengths for the bolt action and handle action of a two-point latch (column 1, lines 4-44), whereas Applicant's claims are directed to single handed access to a computer chassis. Thus, Anderson is not analogous art.

GROUP IV

Claim 9 recites "a rim formed inward around the opening of the chassis of the computer case." Group IV is patentably distinct from Groups I to III because of this limitation. The Patent Office asserted McMiller discloses a casing (figure 1) for an electronic component having at least a plurality of U-shaped EMI clips (figure 5) mounted on flanges surrounding a perimeter on the casing (116, figure 1) to receive a cover thereon. Hobbs discloses gutter ridges that aid in EMI sealing (col. 11, lines 20-36). Hobbs does not disclose any deficiency in or need for a different kind of EMI shield. Thus, one of ordinary skill would not look to McMiller to modify the EMI sealing

of Hobbs. Thus, Claims 9-14 are allowable over the prior art of record for this additional reason.

In the Final Office Action mailed September 24, 2003, the Patent Office asserted “McMiller discloses an EMI seal. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been highly motivated to modify the EMI shield of Hobbs et al. with the seal of McMiller to completely isolate the interior of the casing from electromagnetic interference” (page 7 lines 14). Applicant notes, in Hobbs, the EMI gutter ridges 157 (FIG. 4B) and 158 (FIG. 6) provide very extensive coverage around the perimeter of the opening, whereas McMiller discloses EMI clips 234 that are tiny. Thus, how would Hobbs with extensive EMI gutter ridges be benefited by replacing the gutter ridges with the tiny EMI clips of McMiller?

GROUP V

Claim 10 recites “EMI clips retentively held by the rim along the edges of the opening.” Group V is patentably distinct from Groups I to IV because of this limitation. McMiller discloses the EMI clips are located on the front part of the bottom chassis (col. 3, lines 30-52). Figure 1 shows that the clips are not held by a rim along the edges of the opening as recited in Claim 10. Thus, Claims 10-14 are allowable for these additional reasons.

GROUP VI

Claim 12 recites “there are four EMI clips per chassis” and Claim 13 recites “there are eight EMI clips per chassis”. Group VI is patentably distinct from Groups I to V because of these limitations. Even if Hobbs were modifiable by McMiller and Anderson, none of these references disclose or suggest, alone or in combination, the limitations of Claims 12 and 13. Thus, Claims 12 and 13 are allowable over the prior art of record for these additional reasons.

GROUP VII

Claim 17 recites “the access door has hinging pins which fit within slots on the chassis so as to provide the access door rotational movement about an axis defined by the mating of the hinging pins and the slots.” Group VII is patentably distinct from Groups I to VI because of this limitation. None of the cited references, including Hobbs (e.g., Fig. 4B), disclose or suggest this limitation. In response to the Final Office Action, page 8, line 5, in Hobbs, pin 150 fits into hinge plates 140, 145, but does not fit within slots on the chassis, as claimed. Thus, Claims 17-19 and 40-44 are allowable for this additional reason.

GROUP VIII

Claim 31 recites “the access panel door has a reinforcing member extending along its midsection” and Claim 33 recites “a matrix of reinforcing ribs.” Group VIII is patentably distinct from Groups I to VII because of these limitations. None of the cited references (including, contrary to the Patent Office assertion on page 8, line 6, of the Final Office Action regarding FIG. 4 of Hobbs) disclose or suggest this limitation. Thus, Claims 31-33 are allowable over the prior art of record for this additional reason.

GROUP IX

Claim 20 recites “opening the access panel door in a latched state by squeezing a handle” in a method for “accessing the inside of a computer case having an access panel door and a chassis.” Group IX is patentably distinct from Groups I to VIII because of these limitations. Hobbs does not teach a squeezable handle. As discussed above, the structure of Hobbs does not allow placement of a handle. McMiller concerns the placement of EMI clips. As Anderson is directed to long doors used in hauling cargo, Anderson is non-analogous art. The combination of elements from non-analogous sources, in a manner that reconstructs the applicant’s invention only with the benefit of hindsight, is insufficient to present a *prima facie* case of obviousness. *In re Oetiker*, 24 USPQ 2d, 1443, 1446. Thus, Claim 20 is not made obvious by the combination of Hobbs, McMiller, and Anderson.

GROUP X

Claim 21 recites “the access panel door opens slightly when the handle is squeezed.” Group X is patentably distinct from Groups I to IX because of this limitation. None of the cited references, including McMiller, disclose or suggest this limitation. Thus, Claims 21-26, 45, and 46 are allowable over the prior art of record.

GROUP XI

Claim 24 recites “pairs of hooks” corresponding to one retentive element of the computer chassis. Group XI is patentably distinct from Groups I to X because of this limitation. None of the cited references disclose this limitation. Thus, Claims 24-26, 45, and 46 are allowable over the prior art of record for this additional reason.

GROUP XII

Claim 38 recites “at least one of the EMI clips is proximate to the engaging member and the engaging member is proximate to the handle.” Group XII is patentably distinct from Groups I to XI because of this limitation. The Patent Office has not addressed this limitation. None of the prior art references, alone or in combination, disclose or make obvious this limitation. Thus, Claims 38 and 39 are allowable over the prior art of record for this additional reason.

GROUP XIII

Claim 39 recites “the engaging member has two notches to retain the latches.” Group XIII is patentably distinct from Groups I to XII because of this limitation. The Patent Office has not addressed this limitation. None of the prior art references, alone or in combination, disclose or make obvious this limitation. Thus, Claim 39 is allowable over the prior art of record for this additional reason.

ISSUE III

The issue is whether the Patent Office properly rejected Claims 14 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hobbs, in view of McMiller and Anderson,

as applied to Claims 11 and 18, and further in view of Casebolt, U.S. Patent No. 6,437,980.

GROUP XIV

Claim 14 recites “a backup thumb screw is used to further attach the access panel to the computer case.” Group XIV is patentably distinct from Groups I to XIII because of this limitation. The Patent Office admitted none of Hobbs, McMiller, and Anderson discloses a thumb screw mounted on the panel access door. The Patent Office asserted “Casebolt discloses the use of thumbscrew (figure 3b) mounted on a cover of a computer case. Casebolt shows screws, but only discloses a thumbscrew 124 as securing a retention clip to a mounting bracket (col. 5, lines 41-59) and (in reference to page 4, line 4 of the Final Office Action) does not clearly show a thumbscrew in FIG. 3B. Thus, Claim 14 is allowable over the prior art of record for this additional reason.

GROUP XV

Claim 19 recites “the access door is further secured to the chassis by means of a back up screw attachment”. Group XV is patentably distinct from Groups I to XIV because of this limitation. Casebolt only discloses screws as primary attachments and not backup attachments. Thus, Claims 19 is allowable over the prior art of record for this additional reason. Claim 43 is also allowable because it depends from Claim 19.

As discussed for Claims 15 and 27, Hobbs does not disclose or suggest an access door separating from the chassis upon manipulation of the release mechanism by the user or removing the access panel door from the computer chassis using a single hand of the user. Anderson is non-analogous art as it is directed to long doors for cargo. Anderson also does not disclose or suggest a chassis or removing the long doors. McMiller discloses EMI clips that are not within an opening of the chassis. Casebolt discloses a thumb screw to retain a device 74 within a chassis (col. 5, lines 47-52), but not a thumb screw to secure an access panel door to a chassis. Casebolt does not disclose a thumb screw in Figure 3B. Thus, Claims 15-19, 27-36, 40-44, and 47-50 are allowable over the

prior art of record. (The Patent Office's comment on page 8, line 3, of the Final Office Action regarding claim 43 is noted.)

ISSUE IV

The issue is whether the Patent Office properly rejected Claims 40-43 and 45-46 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hobbs et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,877,938, in view of McMiller et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,194,653, and Anderson, U.S. Patent No. 5,681,066, as applied to claim 17 above, and further in view of Hulick et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,825,626.

GROUP XVI

Claim 40 recites “the single handedly operational squeezable handle on the chassis causes the engagement of a locking mechanism of the chassis with two spaced apart latches on the access door.” Group XVI is patentably distinct from the Groups I to XV because of this limitation. The Patent Office did not address this limitation. Instead, the Patent Office asserted that Hobbs et al., as modified, disclose the claimed invention except for a specific shape of the hinge support and that Hulick discloses a lockable panel [14] mounted to a computer chassis [figure 2] having a plurality of curved hooks [26] mounted in corresponding slots on the chassis.” Thus, Claims 40 and 41 are allowable over the prior art of record for this additional reason.

GROUP XVII

Claim 41 recites “the locking mechanism includes an engaging member with notches to retain the two latches.” Group XVII is patentably distinct from Groups I to XVI because of this limitation. The Patent Office did not address this limitation. Instead, the Patent Office asserted that Hobbs et al., as modified, disclose the claimed invention except for a specific shape of the hinge support and that Hulick discloses a lockable panel [14] mounted to a computer chassis [figure 2] having a plurality of curved hooks [26] mounted in corresponding slots on the chassis.” Thus, Claim 41 is allowable over the prior art of record for this additional reason.

ISSUE V

The issue is whether the Patent Office properly rejected Claim 51 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hobbs et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,877,938, in view of McMiller et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,194,653, and Anderson, U.S. Patent No. 5,681,066, as applied to Claim 7, and further in view of Baillie, U.S. Patent No. 4,195,867.

GROUP XVIII

Claim 51 recites “the engaging member is formed of a self lubricating material.” Group XVIII is patentably distinct from Groups I to XVII because of this limitation. The Patent Office asserted that “Baillie discloses a self-lubricating door latch [figure 8, column 2, 45-55].” Baillie is directed to spring-loaded door latches for use in mobile homes and recreational vehicles (column 1, lines 6-10). Baillie discloses “the door latch of the invention indicated generally 10 includes a housing 12 and is formed preferably of molded plastic self-lubricating material” (column 2, lines 45-49). Baillie is not clear as to whether the housing or the latch engagement member is formed of molded plastic self-lubricating material and does not provide a motivation for using it. Baillie does not teach the engaging member is formed of a self lubricating material. Also, as discussed above, Hobbs, even if modifiable by Anderson, does not make obvious base Claim 7. Thus, Claim 51 is not made obvious by the combination of Hobbs, McMiller, Anderson, and Baillie even if these references were combinable.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully requested that the Patent Office consider the above arguments and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

GATEWAY, INC.,

Dated: December 1, 2003

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(9) CLAIMS

In the Claims:

1. (Withdrawn)

2. (Withdrawn)

3. (Withdrawn)

4. (Withdrawn)

5. (Withdrawn)

6. (Withdrawn)

7. A computer case, comprising:
 - an access panel door, the access panel door comprising
 - a support body which extends so as to cover an opening in a computer chassis, has a perimeter, and has four sides; and
 - flanges spaced inward from the perimeter and extending from a major surface of the support body; and
 - a chassis with an opening on one side for mounting the access panel door, the chassis having a handle with a stationary part and a movable part in which the access panel door is opened when the stationary part and the movable part of the handle are squeezed together, the chassis having EMI clips surrounding the opening, the EMI clips retentively receiving the flanges of the access panel door,
 - wherein each flange substantially extends along length of its corresponding side and each of the sides of the support body has only one flange,
 - wherein one side of the access panel door has latches for engaging an engaging member of a locking mechanism in the computer chassis, the latches being located outside the area bound by the flanges,
 - wherein hinging elements are formed on the access door on the side of the access panel door opposite to the side which has the latches and wherein the latches are spread out to give a wider holding area so that the computer case may be lifted by a vacuum lift attachable to the access panel door,
 - wherein a tab projects at the perimeter of the side of the access panel door that has latches, the tab having at least one perforation to provide for further securing the access panel door to the computer chassis.
 8. The computer case of Claim 7, wherein the computer chassis further comprises slots for accepting the hinging elements of the access panel door.
 9. The computer case of Claim 8, further comprising a rim formed inward around the opening of the chassis of the computer case.

10. The computer case of Claim 9, wherein the EMI clips are retentively held by the rim along the edges of the opening.
11. The computer case of Claim 10, wherein the EMI clips are generally U-shaped.
12. The computer case of Claim 11, wherein there are four EMI clips per chassis.
13. The computer case of Claim 11, wherein there are eight EMI clips per chassis.
14. The computer case of Claim 11, wherein a backup thumb screw is used to further attach the access panel door to the computer case.
15. An information handling system case, comprising:
 - a chassis suitable for containing an electronic component;
 - an access door removably mounted to the chassis, the access door suitable for permitting access to an electronic component contained in the computer chassis; and
 - a release mechanism adjacent to the access door, wherein the release mechanism is manually operable by a single hand of a user to release the access door from the chassis, the access door separating from the chassis upon manipulation of the release mechanism by the user.
16. The information handling system case of Claim 15, the chassis including a U-shaped clip; and
 - the access door including a flange made of a conductive material, wherein the conductive flange engages the U-shaped clip when the access door is installed on the chassis.
17. The information handling system case of Claim 16, wherein the access door has hinging pins that fit within slots on the chassis so as to provide the access door rotational movement about an axis defined by the mating of the hinging pins and the slots.

18. The information handling system case of Claim 17, wherein the single handedly operational squeezable handle on the chassis causes the engagement of a locking mechanism of the chassis with a latch of the access door.
19. The information handling system of Claim 18, wherein the access door is further secured to the chassis by means of a back up screw attachment.
20. A method for accessing the inside of a computer case having an access panel door and a chassis, comprising the step of:
opening the access panel door in a latched state by squeezing a handle.
21. The method of Claim 20, wherein the access panel door opens slightly when the handle is squeezed.
22. The method of Claim 21, further comprising removing the panel door from the computer chassis by a pulling action on the opened access panel door.
23. The method of Claim 22, wherein the pulling action includes removing hinging members that are part of the access panel door from the retentive elements in the computer chassis.
24. The method of Claim 23, wherein the hinging members are pairs of hooks, each pair of hooks corresponding to one retentive element of the computer chassis.
25. The method of Claim 24, wherein the squeezing the handle involves moving a movable portion of a handle toward a stationary portion of the handle and wherein the handle is part of the computer chassis and not part of the access panel door.
26. The method of Claim 25, wherein the access panel door is opened and removed by a single hand.

27. A computer case, comprising:
 - a computer chassis with an opening on one side;
 - an access panel door which covers the opening and attaches to the computer chassis; and
 - means for removing the access panel door from the computer chassis using a single hand of a user.
28. The computer case of Claim 27, further comprising means for pivotally attaching the access panel door to the computer chassis.
29. The computer case of Claim 27, further comprising means for EMI sealing the computer case.
30. The computer case of Claim 27, further comprising means for securing the access panel door to the computer chassis.
31. The computer case of Claim 27, wherein the access panel door has a reinforcing member extending along its midsection.
32. The computer case of Claim 31, wherein the access panel door has two flanges on one of its sides.
33. The computer case of Claim 27, wherein the access panel door has a matrix of reinforcing ribs substantially covering the either the major planar side of the access panel door which faces the opening of the chassis when mounted or the major planar side facing externally from the chassis when mounted.
34. The computer case of Claim 27, wherein the computer chassis and the access panel door are both formed of electrically conductive material.
35. The computer case of Claim 34, wherein the computer chassis and the access

panel door are both formed of metal or metallic alloy.

36. The computer case of Claim 27, wherein the access panel door fully covers the side of the computer chassis with the opening.

37. The computer case of Claim 7, wherein the EMI clips occupy substantially all of a perimeter around the opening.

38. The computer case of Claim 7, wherein at least one of the EMI clips is proximate to the engaging member and the engaging member is proximate to the handle.

39. The computer case of Claim 38, wherein the engaging member has two notches to retain the latches.

40. The information handling system case of Claim 17, wherein the single handedly operational squeezable handle on the chassis causes the engagement of a locking mechanism of the chassis with two spaced apart latches on the access door.

41. The information handling system case of Claim 40, wherein the locking mechanism includes an engaging member with notches to retain the two latches.

42. The information handling system of Claim 17, wherein the hinging pins are curved, the curved side of the hinging pins bounding an axis defined by the mating of the hinging pins and the slots.

43. The information handling system of Claim 19, wherein a tab is secured to an outer edge of the access door.

44. The information handling system of Claim 43, wherein the tab is mounted on a side of the chassis that has the release mechanism, the tab being secured to the chassis through a thumb screw.

45. The method of Claim 26, wherein the hooks are curved.
46. The method of Claim 45, wherein the retentive element is a slot.
47. The computer case of Claim 27, wherein the means for removing includes a handle with a stationary part and a movable part in which the access panel door is opened when the stationary part and the movable part of the handle are squeezed together.
48. The computer case of Claim 29, wherein the EMI sealing forms a nearly entirely enclosed perimeter.
49. The computer case of Claim 27, wherein the opening is slightly smaller than the entire expanse of the one side of the computer chassis.
50. The computer case of Claim 27, wherein receiving ends of the clips are mounted on an inside edge of the opening.
51. The computer case of Claim 7, wherein the engaging member is formed of a self lubricating material.
52. The computer case of Claim 7, wherein the handle is contoured.



PATENT

Attorney Docket No. P1756US00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application Of : DAVIS, DAVID R., et al.
Serial No. : 10/040,340
Filed : November 1, 2001
Art Unit : 2841
Examiner : Thanh S. Phan
Title: *TOOL-LESS ACCESS COVER AND EMI TIGHT ACCESS DOOR*

Mail Stop Appeal Brief – Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

APPELLANT'S BRIEF ON APPEAL

This is an appeal from the Final Office Action dated September 24, 2003, finally rejecting claims 7-43 and 45-52.

(1) REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is Gateway, Inc.

(2) RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Appellant is not aware of any related appeals or interferences.

(3) STATUS OF CLAIMS

The status of the claims is as follows:

Claims withdrawn: 1-6

Claims allowed: none

Claims objected to: 44

Claims rejected: Claims 7-43 and 45-52

(4) STATUS OF AMENDMENTS AFTER FINAL

No amendment has been proffered since the mail date of the Final Office Action of September 24, 2003.

(5) SUMMARY OF INVENTION

The present invention relates to an information handling system case that has a chassis suitable for containing an electronic component, an access door removably mounted to the chassis, the access door suitable for permitting access to an electronic component contained in the computer chassis, and a release mechanism adjacent to the access door, wherein the release mechanism is manually operable by a single hand of a user to release the access door from the chassis, the access door separating from the chassis upon manipulation of the release mechanism by the user. The quick release mechanism is preferably a squeezable handle. EMI shielding is accomplished through EMI clips that form almost an entire continuous unbroken perimeter about an opening in the chassis.

Applicant's drawing figures 1, 3, 6, 7, and 10 illustrate aspects of the claimed invention. Figure 1 shows the access panel door 25 mounted to chassis (or case) 10. The access door has clips or hooks 70 that fit into openings 80. Figure 3 points out the squeezable handle 30 which allows singled handed opening and removal of the access door. Figures 6 and 7 show the operational aspects of the squeezable handle. Figure 10 shows an EMI clip 40.

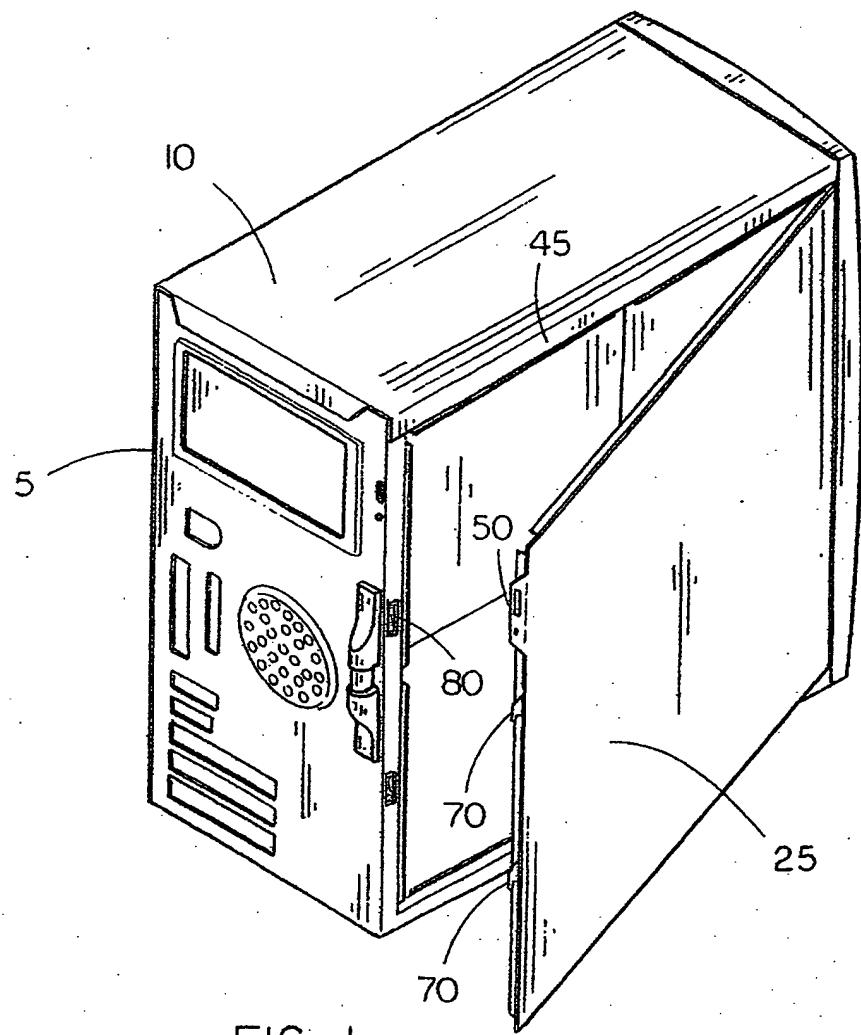


FIG. 1

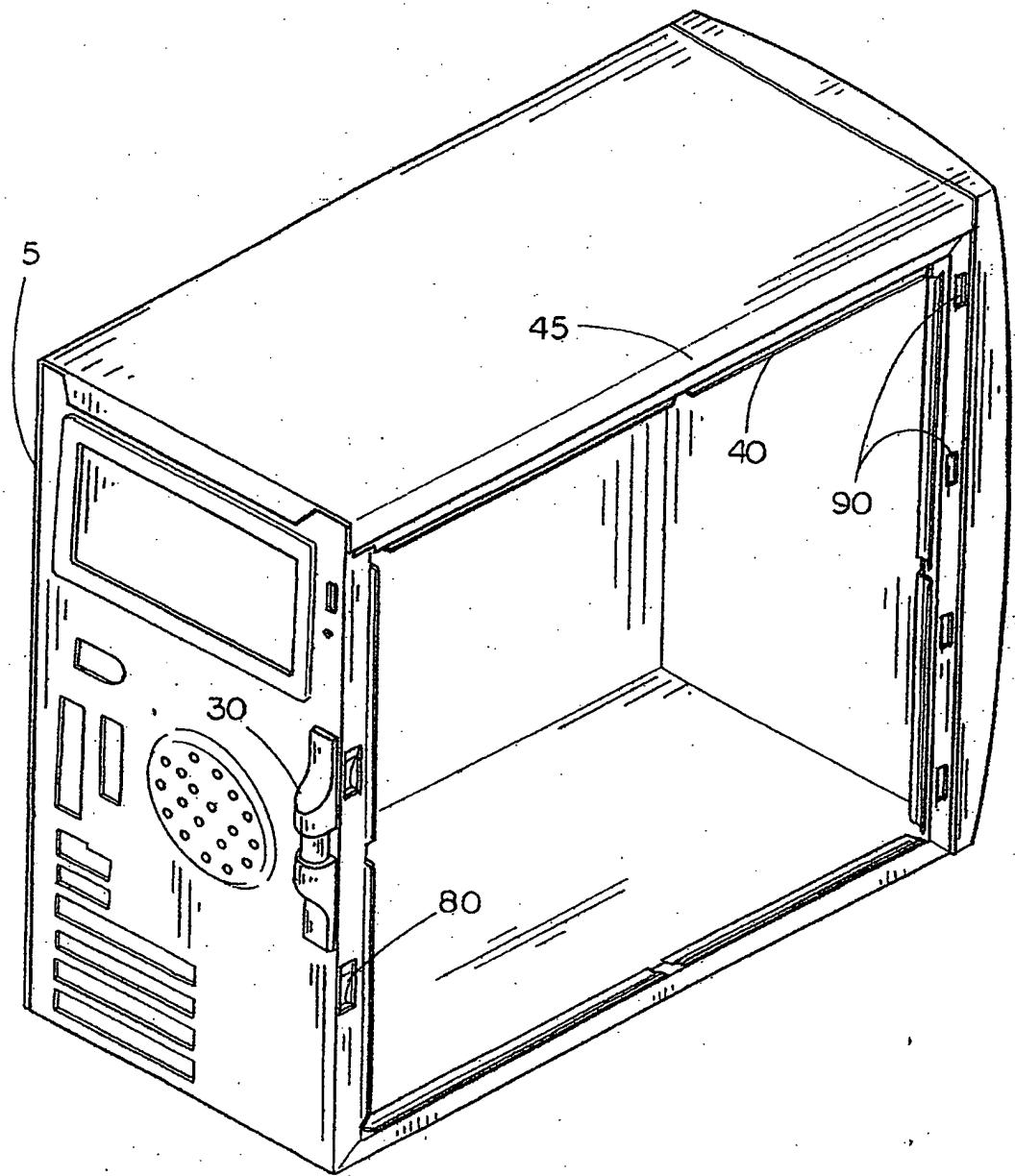


FIG. 3

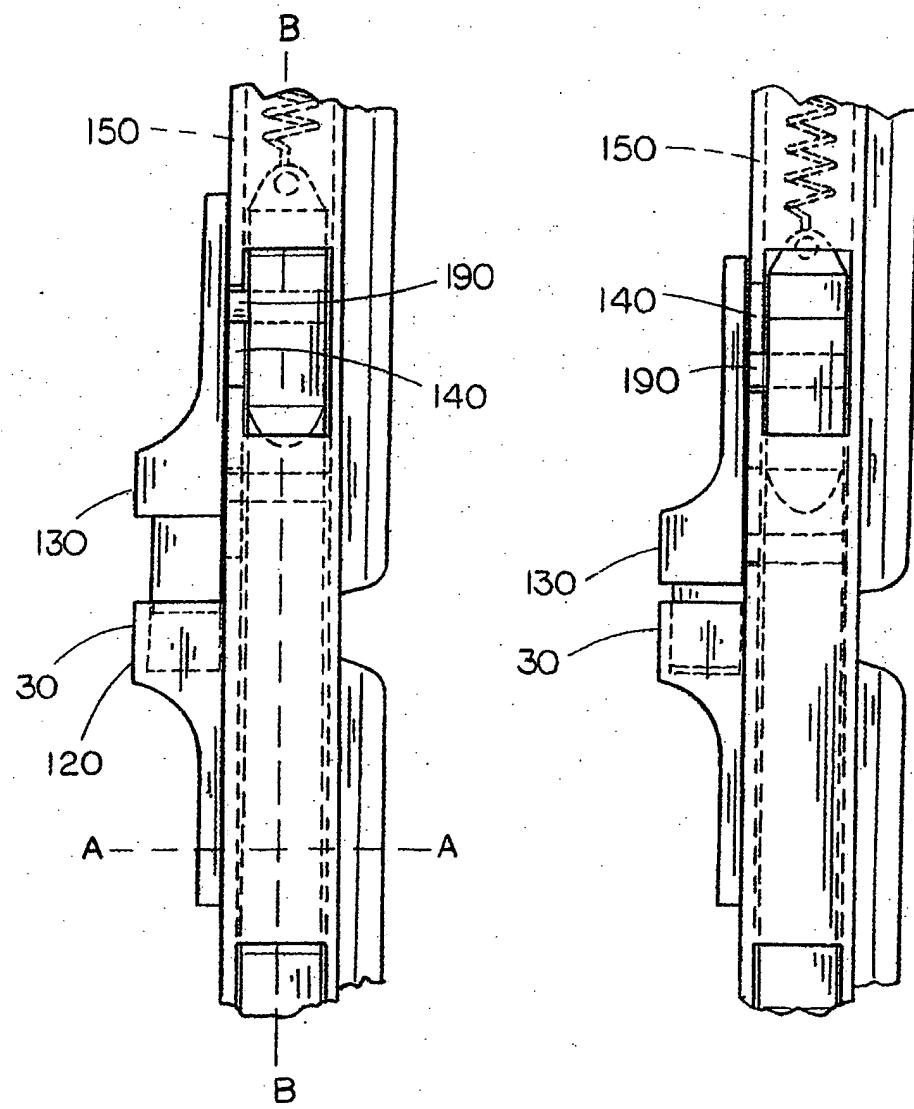


FIG. 6

FIG. 7

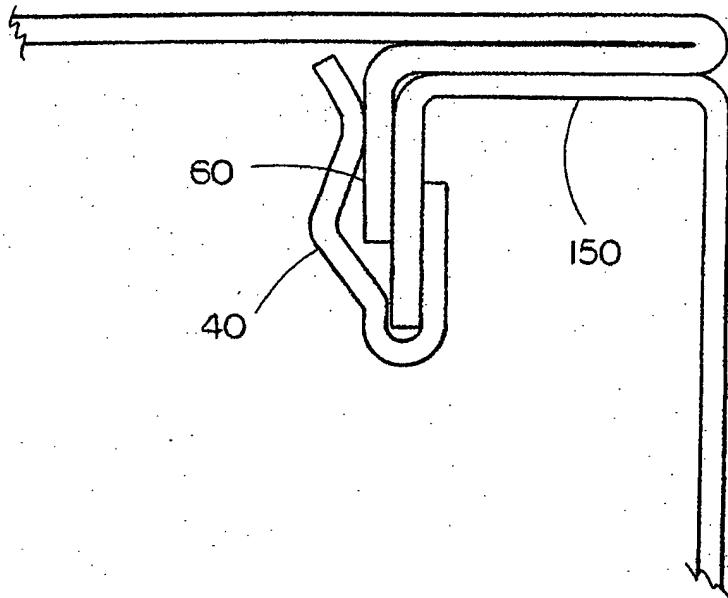


FIG. 10

(6) ISSUES

- I. Did the Patent Office properly reject Claims 15 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hobbs et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,877,938?
- II. Did the Patent Office properly reject Claims 7-13, 16-18, 20-26, 28-39, 47-50, and 52 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hobbs et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,877,938, in view of McMiller et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,194,653, and Anderson, U.S. Patent No. 5,681,066?
- III. Did the Patent Office properly reject Claims 14 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hobbs et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,877,938, in view of McMiller et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,194,653, and Anderson, U.S. Patent No. 5,681,066, and further in view of Casebolt, U.S. Patent No. 6,437,980?

IV. Did the Patent Office properly reject Claims 40-43 and 45-46 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hobbs et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,877,938, in view of McMiller et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,194,653, and Anderson, U.S. Patent No. 5,681,066, and further in view of Hulick et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,825,626?

V. Did the Patent Office properly reject Claim 51 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hobbs et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,877,938, in view of McMiller et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,194,653, and Anderson, U.S. Patent No. 5,681,066, as applied to Claim 7, and further in view of Baillie, U.S. Patent No. 4,195,867?

(7) GROUPING OF CLAIMS

For each ground of rejection that appellant contests herein which applies to more than one claim, such additional claims, to the extent separately identified and argued below, do not stand and fall together.

The Claims are at least as distinguishable as grouped below:

Group I: Claims 15 and 16 stand and fall together.

Group II: Claims 27-30, 34-36, and 47-50 stand and fall together.

Group III: Claim 7, 8, 37, and 52 stand and fall together.

Group IV: Claim 9 stands and falls alone.

Group V: Claims 10 and 11 stand and fall together

Group VI: Claims 12 and 13 stand and fall together.

Group VII: Claims 17, 18, and 42 stand and fall together.

Group VIII: Claims 31-33 stand and fall together.

Group IX: Claim 20 stands and falls alone.

Group X: Claims 21-23 stand and fall together.

Group XI: Claims 24-26, 45, and 46 stand and fall together.

Group XII: Claim 38 stands and falls alone.

Group XIII: Claim 39 stands and falls alone.

Group XIV: Claims 14 stands and falls alone.

Group XV: Claims 19 and 43 stand and fall together.

Group XVI: Claim 40 stands and falls alone.

Group XVII: Claim 41 stands and falls alone.

Group XVIII: Claim 51 stands and falls alone.

(8) ARGUMENT

ISSUE I

The issue is whether the Patent Office properly rejected Claims 15 and 27 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Hobbs et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,877,938.

A claim is anticipated by a reference if each and every element of the claim is taught by the reference or the element is inherent. MPEP § 2131.

GROUP I

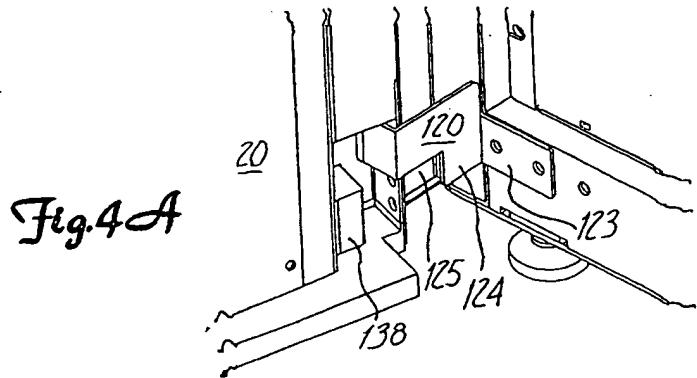
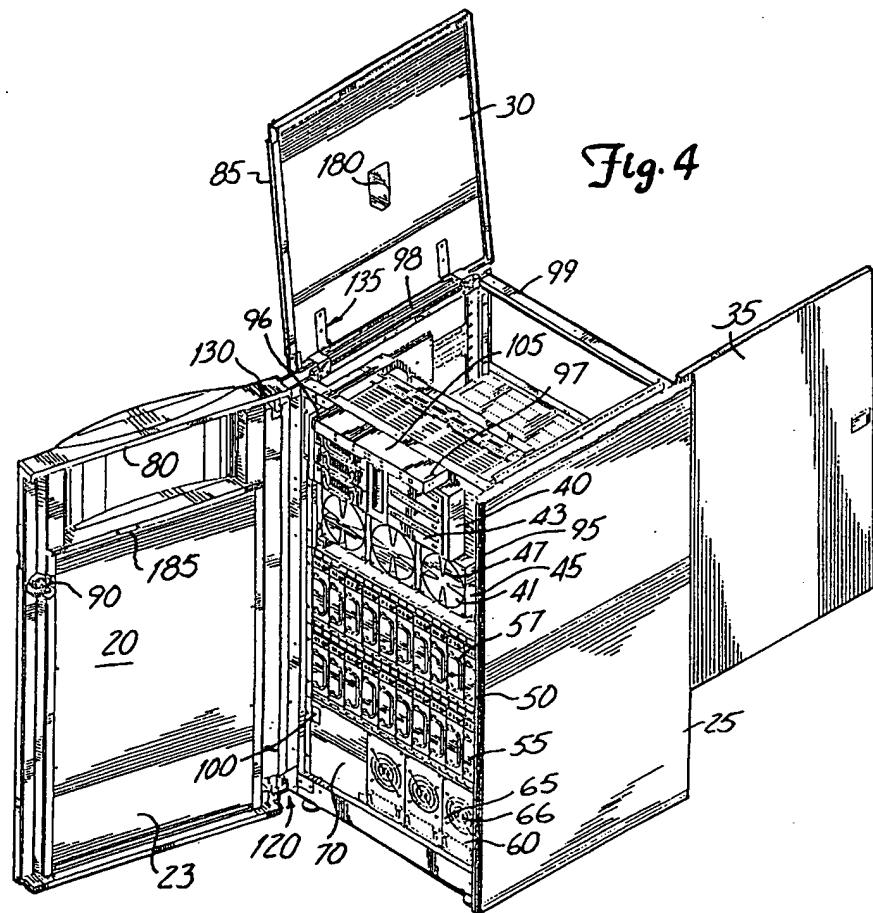
Claim 15 recites “an access door removably mounted to the chassis, the access door suitable for permitting access to an electronic component contained in the computer chassis; and a release mechanism adjacent to the access door, wherein the release mechanism is manually operable by a single hand of a user to release the access door from the chassis, the access door separating from the chassis upon manipulation of the release mechanism by the user.” Hobbs fails to teach a door that separates from a chassis upon manipulation of a release mechanism by a user. Instead, Hobbs teaches a hinged door. This is not the present invention. The Patent Office indicated that the access door is front door 20. Front door 20 is shown to be hinged by hinge plate 124 and hinge plate 123 (col. 10, line 39, to col. 11, line 4). Front door 20 in Hobbs is not disclosed as separating from the chassis upon manipulation of the release mechanism by the user. Hobbs does disclose peripheral access door 75 can be completely removable from the front door 20 (col. 6, lines 17-18), but does not disclose how this is done. Hobbs does

disclose a lock 90 (col. 5, lines 42-50; col. 8, lines 5-25). Although manipulating the lock will unlock or lock the front door 20, manipulating the lock is not disclosed in Hobbs as separating the access door from the chassis as recited by Claim 15. For example, manipulation of the lock 90 does not necessarily result in the separating of the access door from the chassis. In fact, a further motion of pulling on the door is necessary for separation. Thus, Hobbs does not anticipate Claim 15. (Figures 4 and 5 of Hobbs are provided below.) Claim 16 is allowable because it depends from Claim 15.

In the Final Office Action mailed September 24, 2003, the Patent Office asserted that the applicant argues “Hobbs et al. fails to disclose the door being removable from the chassis” (page 6, line 18). The Patent Office asserted that “Hobbs et al. teach the door being removable from the chassis [column 5, lines 52-58]” (page 7, lines 12-13). Applicant has been misquoted. Applicant noted “Hobbs fails to teach a door that separates from a chassis upon manipulation of a release mechanism by a user.” Hobbs discloses (column 5, lines 52-58) a rear door 35 “designed to swing between open and closed positions on external hinges 37 (FIG. 2), and also is designed for easy removal from housing 15.” Hobbs does not disclose a door separating from a chassis upon manipulation of a release mechanism by a user.

GROUP II

Claim 27 recites “means for removing the access panel door from the computer chassis using a single hand of a user.” Group II is patentably distinguishable from Group I because of this limitation. Hobbs does not disclose removing any door using a single hand of a user. (See above discussion for Claim 15.) Thus, Hobbs does not anticipate Claim 27. Claims 28-30 are allowable because they depend from Claim 27.



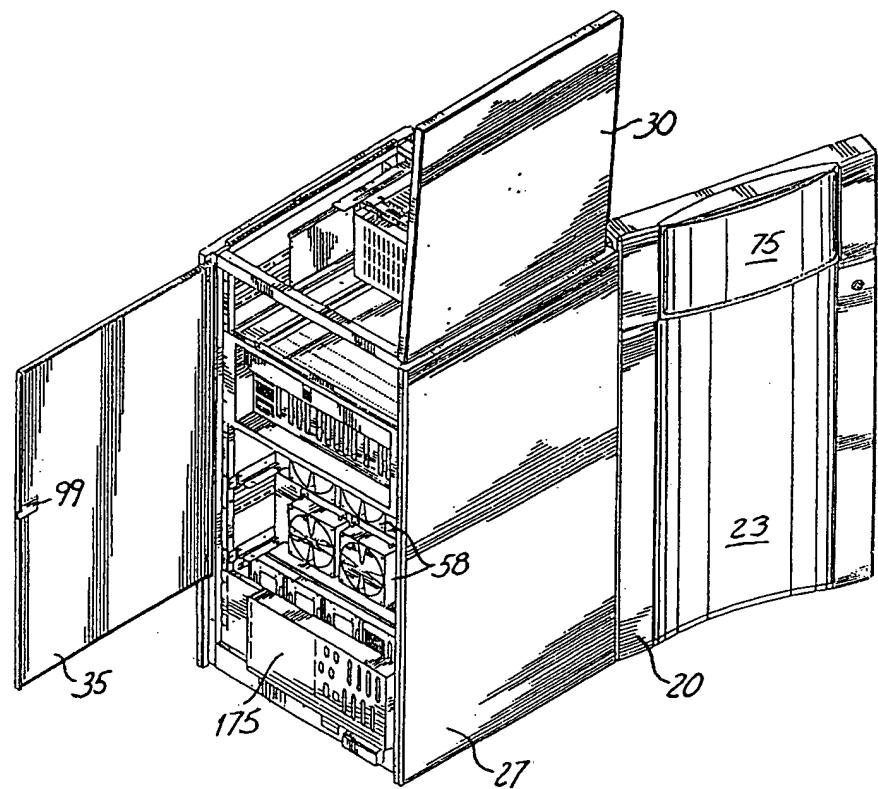


Fig. 5

ISSUE II

The issue is whether the Patent Office properly rejected Claims 7-13, 16-18, 20-26, and 28-36 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hobbs et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,877,938, in view of McMiller et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,194,653, and further in view of Anderson, U.S. Patent No. 5,681,066.

The Patent Office is kindly reminded that in order to establish *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on applicant's disclosure. MPEP § 2142.

GROUP III

Claim 7 recites a computer case that has an access panel door that fits a chassis opening in which the chassis has a handle with a stationary part and a movable part that are squeezed together. The chassis has EMI clips surrounding the opening. The EMI clips retentively receiving the flanges of the access panel door. One side of the access panel door has latches for engaging an engaging member of a locking mechanism in the computer chassis. A tab projects at the perimeter of the side of the access panel door that has latches. The tab has a perforation to provide for further securing the access panel door to the computer chassis.

Claim 7 recites "the chassis having a handle with a stationary part and a movable part in which the access panel door is opened when the stationary part and the movable part of the handle are squeezed together." Group III is patentably distinct from Groups I and II because of this limitation. The Patent Office asserted that Hobbs discloses "a

handle [figure 5] mounted on the access door” and asserted on page 8, line 7, of the Final Office Action, that Hobbs does not preclude the use of a handle to open/close the door. Hobbs does not disclose or suggest a squeezable handle in Figure 5. Even if Hobbs taught a handle mounted on the access door, this would not be a teaching for the claim because of the recitation “the chassis having a handle.” Hobbs does not express a need for a squeezable handle nor discloses any deficiency in the door opening techniques used. Hobbs shows the chassis (figure 9) as being constructed of rectangular lengths of metal. There is no place to put a squeezable handle on the chassis of Hobbs. Thus, Hobbs is not modifiable to have a handle and, so, is not modifiable by Anderson. The Patent Office has asserted Anderson discloses a handle member (figure 1) formed of a support portion 12 supporting squeezable members 14 thereon engaging latch members. Anderson actually discloses both members of the handle move when squeezed (col. 3, lines 42-44 and 50-53).

Furthermore, Claim 7 recites “a handle with a stationary part and a movable part in which the access panel door is opened when the stationary part and the movable part of the handle are squeezed together.” Group III is also patentably distinct from Groups I and II because of this limitation. Anderson fails to meet the claim limitation. Anderson furthermore is directed to long doors for transporting cargo (col. 1, lines 58-64) whereas Hobbs is directed to computer servers. Anderson is non-analogous art. Thus, Hobbs is not modifiable by Anderson.

Claim 7 also recites “each of the sides of the support body has only one flange.” Group III is also patentably distinct from Groups I and II because of this limitation. Hobbs does not disclose this limitation. None of the other cited reference discloses this limitation. Claim 7 recites “latches for engaging an engaging member of a locking mechanism in the computer chassis, the latches being located outside the area bound by the flanges.” Hobbs does not disclose this limitation. Hobbs discloses a singular key lock 90 (figure 4). None of the other cited references disclose this limitation.

Claim 7 recites “a tab projects at the perimeter of the side of the access panel door that has latches, the tab having at least one perforation to provide for further securing the access panel door to the computer chassis.” Group III is also patentably distinct from Groups I and II because of this limitation. Hobbs does not disclose a tab. Neither

McMiller nor Anderson makes up for the deficiencies of Hobbs. Because McMiller fails to teach a tab, McMiller does not teach using a thumbscrew in the manner of the claimed invention. Anderson does not correct the deficiency in Hobbs or McMiller. The Patent Office has used applicant's own disclosure (paragraph 0044) to provide a motivation for modifying Hobbs by McMiller and (paragraph 0009) to provide a motivation for modifying Hobbs by Anderson.

Therefore, Claim 7 is not made obvious by the combination of Hobbs, McMiller, and Anderson.

Claims 8-14, 37-39, 51, and 52 are allowable based on their dependence from Claim 7.

In the Final Office Action mailed September 24, 2003, the Patent Office asserted "In response to applicant's argument that Anderson is nonanalogous art, it has been held that a prior art reference must either be in the field of applicant's endeavor or, if not, then be reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the applicant was concerned, in order to be relied upon as a basis for rejection of the claimed invention." (page 7 lines 18-22). Anderson is not in the field of applicant's endeavor because Anderson is directed to cargo door and Applicant's invention recites access doors for a computer or information handling system case. Anderson is concerned with using different spring strengths for the bolt action and handle action of a two-point latch (column 1, lines 4-44), whereas Applicant's claims are directed to single handed access to a computer chassis. Thus, Anderson is not analogous art.

GROUP IV

Claim 9 recites "a rim formed inward around the opening of the chassis of the computer case." Group IV is patentably distinct from Groups I to III because of this limitation. The Patent Office asserted McMiller discloses a casing (figure 1) for an electronic component having at least a plurality of U-shaped EMI clips (figure 5) mounted on flanges surrounding a perimeter on the casing (116, figure 1) to receive a cover thereon. Hobbs discloses gutter ridges that aid in EMI sealing (col. 11, lines 20-36). Hobbs does not disclose any deficiency in or need for a different kind of EMI shield. Thus, one of ordinary skill would not look to McMiller to modify the EMI sealing

of Hobbs. Thus, Claims 9-14 are allowable over the prior art of record for this additional reason.

In the Final Office Action mailed September 24, 2003, the Patent Office asserted “McMiller discloses an EMI seal. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been highly motivated to modify the EMI shield of Hobbs et al. with the seal of McMiller to completely isolate the interior of the casing from electromagnetic interference” (page 7 lines 14). Applicant notes, in Hobbs, the EMI gutter ridges 157 (FIG. 4B) and 158 (FIG. 6) provide very extensive coverage around the perimeter of the opening, whereas McMiller discloses EMI clips 234 that are tiny. Thus, how would Hobbs with extensive EMI gutter ridges be benefited by replacing the gutter ridges with the tiny EMI clips of McMiller?

GROUP V

Claim 10 recites “EMI clips retentively held by the rim along the edges of the opening.” Group V is patentably distinct from Groups I to IV because of this limitation. McMiller discloses the EMI clips are located on the front part of the bottom chassis (col. 3, lines 30-52). Figure 1 shows that the clips are not held by a rim along the edges of the opening as recited in Claim 10. Thus, Claims 10-14 are allowable for these additional reasons.

GROUP VI

Claim 12 recites “there are four EMI clips per chassis” and Claim 13 recites “there are eight EMI clips per chassis”. Group VI is patentably distinct from Groups I to V because of these limitations. Even if Hobbs were modifiable by McMiller and Anderson, none of these references disclose or suggest, alone or in combination, the limitations of Claims 12 and 13. Thus, Claims 12 and 13 are allowable over the prior art of record for these additional reasons.

GROUP VII

Claim 17 recites “the access door has hinging pins which fit within slots on the chassis so as to provide the access door rotational movement about an axis defined by the mating of the hinging pins and the slots.” Group VII is patentably distinct from Groups I to VI because of this limitation. None of the cited references, including Hobbs (e.g., Fig. 4B), disclose or suggest this limitation. In response to the Final Office Action, page 8, line 5, in Hobbs, pin 150 fits into hinge plates 140, 145, but does not fit within slots on the chassis, as claimed. Thus, Claims 17-19 and 40-44 are allowable for this additional reason.

GROUP VIII

Claim 31 recites “the access panel door has a reinforcing member extending along its midsection” and Claim 33 recites “a matrix of reinforcing ribs.” Group VIII is patentably distinct from Groups I to VII because of these limitations. None of the cited references (including, contrary to the Patent Office assertion on page 8, line 6, of the Final Office Action regarding FIG. 4 of Hobbs) disclose or suggest this limitation. Thus, Claims 31-33 are allowable over the prior art of record for this additional reason.

GROUP IX

Claim 20 recites “opening the access panel door in a latched state by squeezing a handle” in a method for “accessing the inside of a computer case having an access panel door and a chassis.” Group IX is patentably distinct from Groups I to VIII because of these limitations. Hobbs does not teach a squeezable handle. As discussed above, the structure of Hobbs does not allow for placement of a handle. McMiller concerns the placement of EMI clips. As Anderson is directed to long doors used in hauling cargo, Anderson is non-analogous art. The combination of elements from non-analogous sources, in a manner that reconstructs the applicant’s invention only with the benefit of hindsight, is insufficient to present a *prima facie* case of obviousness. *In re Oetiker*, 24 USPQ 2d, 1443, 1446. Thus, Claim 20 is not made obvious by the combination of Hobbs, McMiller, and Anderson.

GROUP X

Claim 21 recites “the access panel door opens slightly when the handle is squeezed.” Group X is patentably distinct from Groups I to IX because of this limitation. None of the cited references, including McMiller, disclose or suggest this limitation. Thus, Claims 21-26, 45, and 46 are allowable over the prior art of record.

GROUP XI

Claim 24 recites “pairs of hooks” corresponding to one retentive element of the computer chassis. Group XI is patentably distinct from Groups I to X because of this limitation. None of the cited references disclose this limitation. Thus, Claims 24-26, 45, and 46 are allowable over the prior art of record for this additional reason.

GROUP XII

Claim 38 recites “at least one of the EMI clips is proximate to the engaging member and the engaging member is proximate to the handle.” Group XII is patentably distinct from Groups I to XI because of this limitation. The Patent Office has not addressed this limitation. None of the prior art references, alone or in combination, disclose or make obvious this limitation. Thus, Claims 38 and 39 are allowable over the prior art of record for this additional reason.

GROUP XIII

Claim 39 recites “the engaging member has two notches to retain the latches.” Group XIII is patentably distinct from Groups I to XII because of this limitation. The Patent Office has not addressed this limitation. None of the prior art references, alone or in combination, disclose or make obvious this limitation. Thus, Claim 39 is allowable over the prior art of record for this additional reason.

ISSUE III

The issue is whether the Patent Office properly rejected Claims 14 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hobbs, in view of McMiller and Anderson,

as applied to Claims 11 and 18, and further in view of Casebolt, U.S. Patent No. 6,437,980.

GROUP XIV

Claim 14 recites “a backup thumb screw is used to further attach the access panel to the computer case.” Group XIV is patentably distinct from Groups I to XIII because of this limitation. The Patent Office admitted none of Hobbs, McMiller, and Anderson discloses a thumb screw mounted on the panel access door. The Patent Office asserted “Casebolt discloses the use of thumbscrew (figure 3b) mounted on a cover of a computer case. Casebolt shows screws, but only discloses a thumbscrew 124 as securing a retention clip to a mounting bracket (col. 5, lines 41-59) and (in reference to page 4, line 4 of the Final Office Action) does not clearly show a thumbscrew in FIG. 3B. Thus, Claim 14 is allowable over the prior art of record for this additional reason.

GROUP XV

Claim 19 recites “the access door is further secured to the chassis by means of a back up screw attachment”. Group XV is patentably distinct from Groups I to XIV because of this limitation. Casebolt only discloses screws as primary attachments and not backup attachments. Thus, Claims 19 is allowable over the prior art of record for this additional reason. Claim 43 is also allowable because it depends from Claim 19.

As discussed for Claims 15 and 27, Hobbs does not disclose or suggest an access door separating from the chassis upon manipulation of the release mechanism by the user or removing the access panel door from the computer chassis using a single hand of the user. Anderson is non-analogous art as it is directed to long doors for cargo. Anderson also does not disclose or suggest a chassis or removing the long doors. McMiller discloses EMI clips that are not within an opening of the chassis. Casebolt discloses a thumb screw to retain a device 74 within a chassis (col. 5, lines 47-52), but not a thumb screw to secure an access panel door to a chassis. Casebolt does not disclose a thumb screw in Figure 3B. Thus, Claims 15-19, 27-36, 40-44, and 47-50 are allowable over the

prior art of record. (The Patent Office's comment on page 8, line 3, of the Final Office Action regarding claim 43 is noted.)

ISSUE IV

The issue is whether the Patent Office properly rejected Claims 40-43 and 45-46 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hobbs et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,877,938, in view of McMiller et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,194,653, and Anderson, U.S. Patent No. 5,681,066, as applied to claim 17 above, and further in view of Hulick et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,825,626.

GROUP XVI

Claim 40 recites "the single handedly operational squeezable handle on the chassis causes the engagement of a locking mechanism of the chassis with two spaced apart latches on the access door." Group XVI is patentably distinct from the Groups I to XV because of this limitation. The Patent Office did not address this limitation. Instead, the Patent Office asserted that Hobbs et al., as modified, disclose the claimed invention except for a specific shape of the hinge support and that Hulick discloses a lockable panel [14] mounted to a computer chassis [figure 2] having a plurality of curved hooks [26] mounted in corresponding slots on the chassis." Thus, Claims 40 and 41 are allowable over the prior art of record for this additional reason.

GROUP XVII

Claim 41 recites "the locking mechanism includes an engaging member with notches to retain the two latches." Group XVII is patentably distinct from Groups I to XVI because of this limitation. The Patent Office did not address this limitation. Instead, the Patent Office asserted that Hobbs et al., as modified, disclose the claimed invention except for a specific shape of the hinge support and that Hulick discloses a lockable panel [14] mounted to a computer chassis [figure 2] having a plurality of curved hooks [26] mounted in corresponding slots on the chassis." Thus, Claim 41 is allowable over the prior art of record for this additional reason.

ISSUE V

The issue is whether the Patent Office properly rejected Claim 51 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hobbs et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,877,938, in view of McMiller et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,194,653, and Anderson, U.S. Patent No. 5,681,066, as applied to Claim 7, and further in view of Baillie, U.S. Patent No. 4,195,867.

GROUP XVIII

Claim 51 recites “the engaging member is formed of a self lubricating material.” Group XVIII is patentably distinct from Groups I to XVII because of this limitation. The Patent Office asserted that “Baillie discloses a self-lubricating door latch [figure 8, column 2, 45-55].” Baillie is directed to spring-loaded door latches for use in mobile homes and recreational vehicles (column 1, lines 6-10). Baillie discloses “the door latch of the invention indicated generally 10 includes a housing 12 and is formed preferably of molded plastic self-lubricating material” (column 2, lines 45-49). Baillie is not clear as to whether the housing or the latch engagement member is formed of molded plastic self-lubricating material and does not provide a motivation for using it. Baillie does not teach the engaging member is formed of a self lubricating material. Also, as discussed above, Hobbs, even if modifiable by Anderson, does not make obvious base Claim 7. Thus, Claim 51 is not made obvious by the combination of Hobbs, McMiller, Anderson, and Baillie even if these references were combinable.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully requested that the Patent Office consider the above arguments and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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(9) CLAIMS

In the Claims:

1. (Withdrawn)

2. (Withdrawn)

3. (Withdrawn)

4. (Withdrawn)

5. (Withdrawn)

6. (Withdrawn)

7. A computer case, comprising:
 - an access panel door, the access panel door comprising
 - a support body which extends so as to cover an opening in a computer chassis, has a perimeter, and has four sides; and
 - flanges spaced inward from the perimeter and extending from a major surface of the support body; and
 - a chassis with an opening on one side for mounting the access panel door, the chassis having a handle with a stationary part and a movable part in which the access panel door is opened when the stationary part and the movable part of the handle are squeezed together, the chassis having EMI clips surrounding the opening, the EMI clips retentively receiving the flanges of the access panel door,
 - wherein each flange substantially extends along length of its corresponding side and each of the sides of the support body has only one flange,
 - wherein one side of the access panel door has latches for engaging an engaging member of a locking mechanism in the computer chassis, the latches being located outside the area bound by the flanges,
 - wherein hinging elements are formed on the access door on the side of the access panel door opposite to the side which has the latches and wherein the latches are spread out to give a wider holding area so that the computer case may be lifted by a vacuum lift attachable to the access panel door,
 - wherein a tab projects at the perimeter of the side of the access panel door that has latches, the tab having at least one perforation to provide for further securing the access panel door to the computer chassis.
 8. The computer case of Claim 7, wherein the computer chassis further comprises slots for accepting the hinging elements of the access panel door.
 9. The computer case of Claim 8, further comprising a rim formed inward around the opening of the chassis of the computer case.

10. The computer case of Claim 9, wherein the EMI clips are retentively held by the rim along the edges of the opening.
11. The computer case of Claim 10, wherein the EMI clips are generally U-shaped.
12. The computer case of Claim 11, wherein there are four EMI clips per chassis.
13. The computer case of Claim 11, wherein there are eight EMI clips per chassis.
14. The computer case of Claim 11, wherein a backup thumb screw is used to further attach the access panel door to the computer case.
15. An information handling system case, comprising:
 - a chassis suitable for containing an electronic component;
 - an access door removably mounted to the chassis, the access door suitable for permitting access to an electronic component contained in the computer chassis; and
 - a release mechanism adjacent to the access door, wherein the release mechanism is manually operable by a single hand of a user to release the access door from the chassis, the access door separating from the chassis upon manipulation of the release mechanism by the user.
16. The information handling system case of Claim 15, the chassis including a U-shaped clip; and
 - the access door including a flange made of a conductive material, wherein the conductive flange engages the U-shaped clip when the access door is installed on the chassis.
17. The information handling system case of Claim 16, wherein the access door has hinging pins that fit within slots on the chassis so as to provide the access door rotational movement about an axis defined by the mating of the hinging pins and the slots.

18. The information handling system case of Claim 17, wherein the single handedly operational squeezable handle on the chassis causes the engagement of a locking mechanism of the chassis with a latch of the access door.
19. The information handling system of Claim 18, wherein the access door is further secured to the chassis by means of a back up screw attachment.
20. A method for accessing the inside of a computer case having an access panel door and a chassis, comprising the step of:
opening the access panel door in a latched state by squeezing a handle.
21. The method of Claim 20, wherein the access panel door opens slightly when the handle is squeezed.
22. The method of Claim 21, further comprising removing the panel door from the computer chassis by a pulling action on the opened access panel door.
23. The method of Claim 22, wherein the pulling action includes removing hinging members that are part of the access panel door from the retentive elements in the computer chassis.
24. The method of Claim 23, wherein the hinging members are pairs of hooks, each pair of hooks corresponding to one retentive element of the computer chassis.
25. The method of Claim 24, wherein the squeezing the handle involves moving a movable portion of a handle toward a stationary portion of the handle and wherein the handle is part of the computer chassis and not part of the access panel door.
26. The method of Claim 25, wherein the access panel door is opened and removed by a single hand.

27. A computer case, comprising:
 - a computer chassis with an opening on one side;
 - an access panel door which covers the opening and attaches to the computer chassis; and
 - means for removing the access panel door from the computer chassis using a single hand of a user.
28. The computer case of Claim 27, further comprising means for pivotally attaching the access panel door to the computer chassis.
29. The computer case of Claim 27, further comprising means for EMI sealing the computer case.
30. The computer case of Claim 27, further comprising means for securing the access panel door to the computer chassis.
31. The computer case of Claim 27, wherein the access panel door has a reinforcing member extending along its midsection.
32. The computer case of Claim 31, wherein the access panel door has two flanges on one of its sides.
33. The computer case of Claim 27, wherein the access panel door has a matrix of reinforcing ribs substantially covering the either the major planar side of the access panel door which faces the opening of the chassis when mounted or the major planar side facing externally from the chassis when mounted.
34. The computer case of Claim 27, wherein the computer chassis and the access panel door are both formed of electrically conductive material.
35. The computer case of Claim 34, wherein the computer chassis and the access

panel door are both formed of metal or metallic alloy.

36. The computer case of Claim 27, wherein the access panel door fully covers the side of the computer chassis with the opening.

37. The computer case of Claim 7, wherein the EMI clips occupy substantially all of a perimeter around the opening.

38. The computer case of Claim 7, wherein at least one of the EMI clips is proximate to the engaging member and the engaging member is proximate to the handle.

39. The computer case of Claim 38, wherein the engaging member has two notches to retain the latches.

40. The information handling system case of Claim 17, wherein the single handedly operational squeezable handle on the chassis causes the engagement of a locking mechanism of the chassis with two spaced apart latches on the access door.

41. The information handling system case of Claim 40, wherein the locking mechanism includes an engaging member with notches to retain the two latches.

42. The information handling system of Claim 17, wherein the hinging pins are curved, the curved side of the hinging pins bounding an axis defined by the mating of the hinging pins and the slots.

43. The information handling system of Claim 19, wherein a tab is secured to an outer edge of the access door.

44. The information handling system of Claim 43, wherein the tab is mounted on a side of the chassis that has the release mechanism, the tab being secured to the chassis through a thumb screw.

45. The method of Claim 26, wherein the hooks are curved.
46. The method of Claim 45, wherein the retentive element is a slot.
47. The computer case of Claim 27, wherein the means for removing includes a handle with a stationary part and a movable part in which the access panel door is opened when the stationary part and the movable part of the handle are squeezed together.
48. The computer case of Claim 29, wherein the EMI sealing forms a nearly entirely enclosed perimeter.
49. The computer case of Claim 27, wherein the opening is slightly smaller than the entire expanse of the one side of the computer chassis.
50. The computer case of Claim 27, wherein receiving ends of the clips are mounted on an inside edge of the opening.
51. The computer case of Claim 7, wherein the engaging member is formed of a self lubricating material.
52. The computer case of Claim 7, wherein the handle is contoured.